

**UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES**

ROCKVILLE, MD 20857



December 8, 2017

John Dimuro  
Chief Medical Officer, Nevada Division of Public and Behavioral Health  
4150 Technology Way  
Carson City, NV 89706

Dear Dr. Dimuro:

RTI International, a not-for-profit contract research organization located in Research Triangle Park, North Carolina, will be conducting the National Survey on Drug Use and Health (NSDUH) in your state during 2018. The NSDUH is authorized by Section 505 of the Public Health Service Act (42 USC 290aa4) and is sponsored by the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA), an agency in the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. **Since your office, as well as local health departments, may receive inquiries from the general public about the legitimacy of this nationwide study, SAMHSA seeks your cooperation in disseminating information about the NSDUH to the appropriate personnel in Nevada who may receive inquiries.**

The NSDUH is a scientific, national survey of the U.S. civilian non-institutionalized population aged 12 and older. Conducted annually, the purpose of the study is to provide up-to-date information on alcohol, tobacco, and drug use, mental health and other health-related issues. A limited number of people are selected to represent the population of the U.S., and we need responses from everyone selected to get accurate data about the American public—no other person can replace a selected individual. Participants do not need to know anything about alcohol, tobacco or drug use to answer the questions, and interviews from people who do not use these substances are just as important to the study as interviews from people who do use these substances.

In 2018, approximately 200,000 randomly selected households in the 50 states and the District of Columbia will be sent letters explaining the study and informing them that an RTI interviewer will soon be visiting their household. The interviewer will ask a resident 18 or older a few general questions to determine if someone in that household 12 years of age or older is eligible for voluntary participation in the interview (approximately 70,000 individuals will be asked to participate nationwide). The NSDUH interview takes about one hour and will be conducted in the privacy of the participant's home using a computerized questionnaire. Everyone who completes the entire interview will be given \$30 in cash as a token of appreciation for their participation.

Both SAMHSA and RTI International assure complete confidentiality of all responses. Individual names are not collected from interview participants and their responses are processed for cumulative analysis and reporting only. The survey is designed so that responses to all potentially sensitive questions are private—the interviewer never sees or hears the answers to sensitive questions. The Confidential Information Protection and Statistical Efficiency section of the E-Government Act of 2002 (Public Law 107-347) ensures that any information provided will only be used for research and analysis and cannot be used for any other purpose. Furthermore, the participant has the option of refusing to answer any question. The enclosed printed materials provide additional details on study protocols and references for staff who receive calls about the study.

Thank you in advance for sharing information about the NSDUH with all pertinent public health officials in Nevada. Your efforts will help us increase the accuracy and reliability of the data results, and we at SAMHSA greatly appreciate it. Information about the NSDUH, SAMHSA, and RTI International can be obtained on the Internet at [nsduhweb.rti.org](http://nsduhweb.rti.org), [www.samhsa.gov](http://www.samhsa.gov), and [www.rti.org](http://www.rti.org). State level estimates of substance use can be found at [www.samhsa.gov/data/population-data-nsduh/](http://www.samhsa.gov/data/population-data-nsduh/). If you have any questions, please contact me at (240) 276-0513.

Sincerely,

Grace Medley, NSDUH National Study Director, SAMHSA, Center for Behavioral Health Statistics and Quality

Enclosure